




SERANGOON SECONDARY SCHOOL

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27 March 2023

Through Principal 

Dear Parent/Guardian,

2023 Term 2 Letter – Lower Secondary

1. Welcome to Term 2 2023! Term 2 will be an exciting term with school events such as Student Leaders' Investiture, 95th Anniversary Celebrations & Prize Giving Ceremony, Cross Country and Learning Week 1 for all levels. In this letter, we would like to update you on:

- Updates on Key Events in Term 1
- COVID-19
- School Hours
- ORION StaRs and Mentoring Programmes
- Term 2 School Events
- Term 2 Weighted Assessments (WAs)
- Home-Based Learning (HBL) and Student-Initiated Learning (SIL)
- School Expectations
- Safety and Security
- Updates on School Campus
- School-Home Partnerships
- Communication Channels

Update on Key Events in Term 1

2. **StaRs Programme.** Our students have successfully completed the school's iconic cohort-level student development experience from 28 Feb to 3 Mar. Ranging from outdoor activities, Applied Learning Modules @ Schools, interview skills and learning journeys, the four-day programme has honed our students' social and emotional competencies and enabled them to grow holistically.



Sec 1 StaRs undergoing Low Elements



Sec 2 StaRs showcasing their learning from various ApLM @ Schools Modules



Sec 3 StaRs learning how to pitch a tent



Sec 4 & 5 StaRs visiting Institutions of Higher Learning (IHLs)

3. **Term 1 Parent Webinars.** The two webinars conducted on 11 March (Sat) were well-received by parents who found the sharing sessions informative and useful in guiding their child to make better informed choices. Parents can view the slides and recordings on the following websites:

- Upper Secondary Subject Combinations & Eligibility Criteria for 2024:
<https://www.serangoonsec.moe.edu.sg/parents-and-students/Lower-Sec/sec2-subject-allocation/>
- Understanding Post-Secondary Education Options:
<https://www.serangoonsec.moe.edu.sg/parents-and-students/Upper-Sec/sec4n5-webinar/>

COVID-19

4. Please inform the school/Form Teachers if your child/ward is tested COVID-19 positive and keep him/her at home until he/she is tested negative. While mask-wearing in the school setting is not required, it is still an effective way to minimise the risk of infectious disease transmission. Staff and students who prefer to continue wearing masks are allowed to do so.

School Hours

5. The arrival, dismissal, recess/lunch, and snack break timings are as follows:

| Level | Arrival | Recess/Lunch | Snack Break(s) | Dismissal on Mon-Thu | Dismissal on Fri |
|-----------|---------|---|----------------------|---|------------------|
| Sec 1 | 7.40am | As per class timetable | 9.30am, 11am and 1pm | As per class timetable | 12.30pm |
| Sec 2 | | https://www.serangoonsec.moe.edu.sg/parents-and-students/class-timetable/ | | https://www.serangoonsec.moe.edu.sg/parents-and-students/class-timetable/ | |
| Sec 3 | | | | | |
| Sec 4 & 5 | | | | | |

6. To ensure our students' well-being, they will be given an additional five-minute **snack break(s)** within curriculum time. All students will have a snack break at 9.30 am, 11.00am and 1.00 pm. Students are encouraged to bring snacks that are simple, nutritious, and easily consumed within the designated break time, e.g. sandwiches and muesli bars. They will not be allowed to purchase food in the canteen or the café during the given time.
7. All Sec 1 to 5 timetables have **CCE/LLP** during Odd Week Wednesdays from 1.30 pm to 2.30 pm. This period for Character & Citizenship Education (CCE) and Learning for Life Programme (LLP) is for selected student development experiences such as student leadership training and Values in Action (VIA) projects. The detailed schedule is in **Annex A** – students who are involved are required to attend the respective session(s) as part of the formal school curriculum, while students who are not involved will be dismissed at 1.30 pm on such days instead.
8. **Co-Curricular Activities (CCAs).** Sec 4 and 5 students will stand down from CCA after **14 April (Fri)**. Graduating students who are involved in the National School Games (NSG) or Singapore Youth Festival Arts Presentation (SYF AP) will continue with their CCA training until the end of the competition or presentation. With the removal of Mid-Year Examinations, there will be no standing down of CCA for Sec 1 to 3 students in Term 2. Students will be informed by their CCA teachers on any updates to the CCA training schedule, and parents will receive the information via Parent Gateway.
9. Students will be excused from strenuous physical activities for 2 weeks after each COVID-19 vaccination dose. We seek your help in reminding your child/ward to inform his/her Form Teachers, PE, and CCA teachers about the date of his/her vaccination so that he/she will be exempted from strenuous physical activities for 2 weeks.
10. To provide additional support for learning, **Mastery Learning Programme (MLP)** lessons may be conducted for students after school on the following days. Teachers will inform students of the details of each MLP lesson at least one day in advance. We seek your cooperation that your child/ward attends MLP lessons so that he/she can be well-supported in his/her academics. Please refer to the schedule below:

| Sec 1 & 2 MLP Schedule | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Day | Subject Area |
| Mondays | English |
| Thursdays | Mathematics |

11. **Orion StaRs and Mentoring Programmes.** For students involved in the respective programmes, please refer to the Term 2 schedule below:

| Programme | Schedule |
|--|---|
| Orion StaRs After-School Engagement (for selected* Sec 1 and 2 students) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The sessions will be on every Mon or Thu, 2.30 pm to 4.30 pm. On Public and School Holidays, and HBL days, there will be no session. |
| Mentoring Programme by CARE Singapore (for selected* Sec 2 students) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The sessions will be on the following days and timings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Life Skills (Fortnightly Tues, 2pm – 3.30pm) Individual and Group Mentoring (Monthly Sat, 9am – 12pm) Sessions will start from Term 2 Week 3 onwards. On Public and School Holidays, and HBL days, there will be no session. |
| Mentoring Programme by Bethesda CARE Centre (for selected* Sec 3 students) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The sessions will be conducted during selected Weds CCE lessons. Sessions will start from Term 2 Week 1 onwards. On Public and School Holidays there will be no session. |

**Selected students and their parents would be informed of their participation in the programme.*

Term 2 School Events

12. Singapore Citizen and Permanent Resident students born in the year 2008 are required by law to complete **NRIC registration** this year. The registration exercise will be conducted on **6 April 2023 (Thu)** at the school.
13. Parents will receive notification letters from the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA) two weeks before the registration date, which will provide complete information on the process. We will also keep you updated through the Parents Gateway (PG) mobile app.
14. The **Student Leaders' Investiture** marks an important milestone for our student leaders, where the Prefects, CCA Leaders, Peer Support Leaders, and Class Committee Members are invested into their role to lead the school. The ceremony will be held on the **12 April (Wed), 12.30 pm to 1.30 pm.**
15. We will be celebrating our school's **95th Anniversary Celebrations & Prize Giving Ceremony** on **28 April (Fri) 2023**, from **9.00 am to 12.00 pm** in the School Hall. The theme of this year's celebrations is *Constellations: Celebrating S³taRs* with 'S³' signifying Students, Staff and Stakeholders.
16. Our school's 95th Anniversary Celebrations & Prize Giving Ceremony is a time to celebrate our school's long history as well as the varied achievements of our students in the areas of character, academics, aesthetics, sports, and leadership. Staff, partners, and alumni are also recognised for their dedicated service and valuable contributions to the school.
17. Only prize winners and this year's Sec 4/5 cohort will need to report to school on 28 April. Sec 1 to 3 students will be engaged in Home-Based Learning on that day. Please refer to the table below:

| Level | 28 April 2023 |
|-----------|--|
| Sec 1 | HBL |
| Sec 2 | HBL |
| Sec 3 | HBL |
| Sec 4 & 5 | To report by 8:30 am to respective classrooms for 95 th Anniversary & Prize Presentation Day Dismissal at 12:00 pm (Refreshments provided before dismissal) |

18. After a three-year hiatus, we are finally able to bring back the **Cross Country!** The much-awaited annual sports event will be held on **19 May (Fri) 2023.** More information will be given nearer the date of event.
19. **Learning Week 1** is a 3-day programme at the end of Semester 1 that seeks to enhance students school experience by providing them with engaging and meaningful activities to supplement their learning in the school year. This will be held on **23 to 25 May 2023.** More information will be disseminated nearer the date.

20. The next **Parent Engagement Session (PES)** of the year will be held at the end of Term 2 on **26 May (Fri) 2023**. Parents/Guardians will be invited to meet with our Form Teachers in school. More information regarding the booking details will be disseminated nearer the date.
21. Please refer to **Annex B** for the key school events in Term 2, as well as other important dates for the rest of the year. More details on the events will be provided at a later date.

Term 2 Weighted Assessments (WAs)

22. As announced by MOE, each subject has at most one WA per school term. This allows teachers to better pace out teaching and learning, and enhance students' learning experiences. In turn, this helps students to build their confidence and develop an intrinsic motivation to learn. WAs can take different forms for different subjects: Class Tests, Projects, Coursework, or Assignments. The schedule for Term 2 is:

| Sec 1 WA Schedule for Term 2 | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Subject | G1 | G2 | G3 |
| English | Wk 7: Class Test | Wk 7: Class Test | Wk 7: Class Test |
| Mother Tongue Languages | Wk 4: Class Test | Wk 4: Class Test | Wk 4: Class Test |
| Mathematics | Wk 8: Class Test | Wk 8: Class Test | Wk 8: Class Test |
| Science | Wk 4-7: Performance Task | Wk 4-7: Performance Task | Wk 4-7: Performance Task |
| Geography | | Wk 6-7: Geographical Investigation | Wk 6-7: Geographical Investigation |
| History | | Wk 5-7: Historical Investigation | Wk 5-7: Historical Investigation |
| Social Studies | Wk 5-7: Performance Task | | |
| Literature in English | | Wk 7: Class Test | Wk 7: Class Test |
| Computer Applications | Wk 8: Practical Test | | |
| Art | Wk 5-8: Performance Task | Wk 5-8: Performance Task | Wk 5-8: Performance Task |
| Design & Technology | Wk 7-9: Performance Task | Wk 7-9: Performance Task | Wk 7-9: Performance Task |

| Sec 2 WA Schedule for Term 2 | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Subject | Normal (Technical) | Normal (Academic) | Express |
| English | Wk 7: Class Test | Wk 7: Class Test | Wk 7: Class Test |
| Mother Tongue Languages | Wk 4: Class Test | Wk 4: Class Test | Wk 4: Class Test |
| Mathematics | Wk 8: Class Test | Wk 8: Class Test | Wk 8: Class Test |
| Science | Wk 8: Class Test | Wk 8: Class Test | Wk 8: Class Test |
| Geography | | Wk 6-7: Geographical Investigation | Wk 6-7: Geographical Investigation |
| History | | Wk 5-7: Historical Investigation | Wk 5-7: Historical Investigation |
| Social Studies | Wk 5-7: Performance Task | | |
| Literature in English | | Wk 7: Class Test | Wk 7: Class Test |
| Computer Applications | Wk 8: Practical Test | | |
| Art | Wk 5-8: Performance Task | Wk 5-8: Performance Task | Wk 5-8: Performance Task |
| Food & Consumer Education | Wk 6-8: Performance Task | Wk 6-8: Performance Task | Wk 6-8: Performance Task |

23. **Absence from Weighted Assessment (WA) must be covered with a Medical Certificate** with the diagnosis stated, from a qualified medical practitioner for the school's consideration. **Parents' letters are not allowed.**
24. In the event of absence from class tests due to valid reasons, e.g. representing school or country in official sanctioned competitions and conferences, a "Valid Reason (VR)" will be given for the class test. This is in recognition of students' holistic development, given that the student development and academic domains are both important. Students can attempt the class test at a later date for the purposes of practice, and feedback will be given to support their learning.
25. Beyond WAs, teachers also formatively assess learning outcomes, strengths, and areas for growth of each student by employing questioning techniques during lessons, and assigning class work and homework. Teachers will indicate the assigned homework on the Homework Board in the classroom, and students should record in their copy of the Student Handbook.
26. Students are strongly encouraged to seek consultations with teachers in other subject areas whenever they are in doubt. This will help to address learning gaps earlier in a timely manner.

Home-Based Learning (HBL) and Student-Initiated Learning (SIL)

27. As announced by MOE, Blended Learning is a key feature of the schooling experience to further develop students' ability to be self-directed, passionate, and life-long learners. Through Blended Learning, regularly scheduled HBL Days once a fortnight complement teaching and learning in schools. Students' learning during HBL Days is supported by the NDLP and their procured PLDs.
28. At Serangoon Secondary, HBL Days will take place fortnightly for all students. Below is the schedule for HBL Days for Semester 1:

| Term/Week | Date | Level |
|-----------|----------------|----------------|
| T2W2 | 28 March (Tue) | All |
| T2W4 | 13 April (Thu) | All |
| T2W6 | 28 April (Fri) | Sec 1 – 3 only |
| T2W8 | 8 May (Mon) | All |

29. A conducive learning environment and access to ICT devices at home are necessary for learning to take place effectively during HBL Days. The school will continue to support students without access to ICT devices. Selected students, based on needs, will also be identified to return to school for in-school HBL during HBL Days.
30. **Student-Initiated Learning (SIL).** As shared in the 2023 Term 1 Letter, all students will be embarking on their 'Student-Initiated Learning' (SIL) during the designated Home-Based Learning (HBL) days. It is scheduled to be carried out after the HBL curriculum lessons. Parents/Guardians are strongly encouraged to play an active role in checking in with your child/ward on the selected SIL activity, and to encourage and motivate your child/ward to give his/her best in the pursuit of the activity.

School Expectations

31. Regular attendance is integral to student learning and engagement in school. Attendance in school is important to ensure that all students gain knowledge and skills consistently throughout the school term. Being present in school regularly will also increase the opportunities for positive relationship-building amongst students and between teachers and students.
32. A medical certificate, from a medical practitioner registered under the Medical Registration Act on the Singapore Medical Council website, is required if your child/ward is unwell and unable to attend school. A parent's letter may be provided for other types of valid absences, e.g. bereavement. **Permission must be sought from the Principal via Form Teachers for all other absences, including overseas travel, during the school term.**
33. As part of the whole-of-nation effort to harness digital technologies to transform Singapore, parents/guardians may now receive a digital MC (DigiMC) from doctors instead. Kindly submit the DigiMC to the school via FormSG (<https://go.gov.sg/sss-emc>). The details to submit a DigiMC may also be found on our school's website at <https://www.serangoonsec.moe.edu.sg/parents-and-students/General-Matters/submission-of-electronic-medical-cert/>.
34. Students coming in after 7.40am will be regarded as late for school and will face consequences (e.g. serving detention). We encourage students to arrive in school at least five minutes before the reporting time. This will help them frame their mind and prepare themselves to learn for the rest of the day.
35. As a school, we strive to inculcate appropriate and responsible device usage in our students. Unless allowed by teachers for learning purposes during lessons, handphone usage is restricted to before 7.40 am and after dismissal. Handphones are not allowed during recess so that students can focus on taking their meals or interacting with their peers. Parents/Guardians can contact the General Office at **6385 1589** if you need to contact your child/ward urgently. Infringement of rules on the use of electronic devices/handphones may result in the confiscation of the device.
36. Care of school facilities is essential to ensure that the on-going refurbishment of school facilities serve students well. We have impressed upon all members of the Serangoon Secondary community (staff, students, and contracted staff) that everyone is responsible for the care of the upgraded facilities. In the event anyone wilfully damages school properties, either directly or indirectly, the school will take appropriate actions to recover the cost of replacing the damaged property (e.g. \$700 per door frame and \$80 per PLD locker door). We would like to enlist the support of all parents/guardians in our effort to inculcate a sense of care and responsibility towards the upkeep of public properties.
37. Students are allowed to wear the **half school uniform** (PE shirt with pants/skirt) on all days. Members of Uniformed Groups (UGs) can also wear their UG pants/skirts with their boots/shoes on Wednesdays and/or Fridays.

38. Further information on school expectations and rules, such as on student bearing and appearance, can be found in Pages 12 to 21 of our Student Handbook, which is available at <https://www.serangoonsec.moe.edu.sg/parents-and-students/Student-Handbook/>.

Safety and Security

39. All students who wish to cycle to school are required to register with the school's Operations Managers. They must observe road safety and are strongly encouraged to wear cycling helmets, even if they are only using park connectors and pedestrian pavements to reach the school. As part of our care for students, we strictly do not allow bicycles without brakes or any form of personal mobility devices (PMDs) into the school compound.
40. As part of our emergency preparedness program, we will be conducting a school Fire Drill Exercise on 24 Mar 2023 (Fri).
41. We require all visitors to register their presence at the Guard Room and wear a visitors' sticker issued by the security personnel and proceed to the General Office. No visitors are allowed to proceed to the classrooms. All visitors should remain at the school foyer or General Office unless escorted by a school staff. We seek your understanding and cooperation to keep our school environment safe and secure.

Updates on School Campus

42. To serve students and staff better, a covered linkway will be built, connecting the school foyer to the bus stop in front of the school (Bus Service 324). The Land Transport Authority had completed the external segment of the covered linkway. Works on the segment within the school compound has started on 13 Mar 2023. The project will be completed by the end of Sep 2023. We had earlier informed all parents through Parents Gateway regarding the temporary closure of the front pedestrian gate due to construction activities.

School-Home Partnerships

43. As a parent/guardian, you are the key navigator of your child's/ward's growth. Your child/ward will benefit the most when we work together to fulfil our shared responsibilities to bring out the best in him/her. You may visit MOE's Schoolbag.sg website (<https://www.schoolbag.edu.sg>) for more information on how to partner schools.

Communication Channels

44. Teachers can be contacted at **6385 1589** during **weekdays** between **7.30 am and 6.00 pm**. Alternatively, you may reach our staff by sending an email to serangoon_ss@moe.edu.sg.
45. You may wish to visit our school website (<https://serangoonsec.moe.edu.sg>) for updates and key information on our school programmes.
46. Do also follow our school's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/serangoonsecsg/>) and Instagram page (<https://www.instagram.com/serangoonsecondary/>) to be updated on key happenings in our school!
47. We thank you for your continued support of the school and our programmes. If you require any clarifications, please do not hesitate to contact the following personnel at 6385 1589:
- Mr Tay Ming Yang, Year Head (Lower Sec)
 - Mr Dennis Kwek, Assistant Year Head (Sec 1)
 - Ms Tan Xiaolin, Assistant Year Head (Sec 2) (Covering)
48. Our school philosophy is ***Together, we empower every Serangoon StaR to SHINE, for the growth of self and the good of others***. We look forward to your partnership in your child's/ward's educational journey.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Tay Ming Yang
Year Head (Lower Sec)

CCE/LLP Period Schedule for 2023 Term 2

| Dates | CCE/LLP Period | Students Involved |
|--------------|---|--|
| 22 Mar | PSL Training | Peer Support Leaders |
| | Class Committee Training | Class Chairpersons and Vice-Chairpersons Citizenship Ambassador |
| | Prefectorial Board & CCA Leaders Briefing | Sec 2 – 4 Prefects CCA Leaders |
| 7 Apr | Student Leaders Investiture Rehearsal | Student leaders |
| 19 Apr | Prefectorial Board Meeting | Sec 2 & 3 Prefects |
| | PSL Training | Peer Support Leaders |
| | CCA Leaders Training | Sec 3 CCA Leaders |
| 3 May | VIA Implementation | Sec 1 and 3 Cohort Selected Sec 2 Classes |
| | Class Committee & PSL Meeting with FTs | Sec 2, 4/5 Class Committee & Peer Support Leaders |
| 17 May | Class Committee & PSL Meeting with FTs | Sec 1 – 3 Class Committee & Peer Support Leaders |
| | VIA Implementation | Selected Sec 2 Classes |

Serangoon Secondary School – 2023 School Events, Programmes, and Holidays

| Term 2 | | | | | | |
|-----------------|---|-------|-------|-------|-----------|--------------------|
| Date | Event | Sec 1 | Sec 2 | Sec 3 | Sec 4 & 5 | Parents/ Guardians |
| 21 Mar – 1 Apr | Mother Tongue Fortnight | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 6 Apr | NRIC Registration | ✓* | ✓* | ✓* | | |
| 7 Apr | Good Friday (Public Holiday) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 12 Apr | Student Leaders' Investiture | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 14 Apr | Sec 4 and 5 CCA Standdown | | | | ✓ | |
| 17 – 21 Apr | MTL Preliminary Oral and LC Examinations | | | | ✓ | |
| 24 Apr | Hari Raya Puasa (Public Holiday) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 28 Apr | 95 th Anniversary Celebrations & Prize Giving Ceremony | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 1 May | Labour Day (Public Holiday) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 9 May | NAPFA Test | | ✓ | | | |
| 11 May | NAPFA Test | | | | ✓ | |
| 15 – 19 May | EL Preliminary Oral Examinations | | | | ✓ | |
| 19 May | Cross Country | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 23 – 25 May | Learning Week 1 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 26 May | Parent Engagement Session | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 2 June | Vesak Day (Public Holiday) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 27 May – 25 Jun | Mid-Year School Holidays 3 – 16 Jun: Protected time; no activities. (Students may have CCA and/or Mastery Learning Programme classes on other days) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 29 May | O-Level Mother Tongue Examination | | | | ✓ | |
| 30 May | O-Level Mother Tongue B Examination | | | | ✓* | |
| 30 May – 1 Jun | June Term Break Lessons | | | | ✓ | |
| 19 – 21 Jun | June Term Break Lessons | | | | ✓ | |

| Terms 3 to 4 | | | | | | |
|------------------|--|-------|-------|-------|-----------|--------------------|
| Date (tentative) | Event | Sec 1 | Sec 2 | Sec 3 | Sec 4 & 5 | Parents/ Guardians |
| 29 Jun | Hari Raya Haji (Public Holiday) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 3 Jul | Youth Day | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 9 Aug | National Day (Public Holiday) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 10 Aug | Day after National Day (School Holiday) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Aug | N-Level Preliminary Examinations | | | | ✓* | |
| Aug & Sep | O-Level Preliminary Examinations | | | | ✓* | |
| 31 Aug | Teachers' Day Celebrations | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 1 Sep | Teachers' Day (School Holiday) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| 2 – 10 Sep | September Term Break | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Sep & Oct | N-Level Written Examinations | | | | ✓* | |
| Oct & Nov | O-Level Written Examinations | | | | ✓* | |
| Oct | End-of-Year Examinations | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| 24 – 27 Oct | Learning Week 2 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| 27 Oct | Parent Engagement Session; Last day of school for Sec 1 – 3 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ |
| 28 Oct – 31 Dec | Year-End School Holidays 18 Nov – 17 Dec: Protected time; no activities. (Students may have CCA and/or Mastery Learning Programme classes on other days) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| 30 Oct – 8 Nov | Sec 3 Bridging Programme | | | ✓* | | |

*For selected students only

Note: The above dates are subjected to changes in view of the COVID-19 situation and other unforeseen circumstances.